TR STARTED LIFE WEAK BUT MADE HIMSELF STRONG

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. was born in1858 in New York City. He was born to a wealthy family that made its fortune in the glass industry. The Roosevelts were some of the Dutch who remained when Britain ended Dutch control of Manhattan in 1664. As a young boy, Theodore Roosevelt spent a lot of time inside, homeschooled due to various illnesses and asthma. He was determined to overcome his condition, so he developed a rigorous physical routine that included weightlifting and boxing. After graduating from Harvard in 1880, he enrolled at Columbia Law School. He later married Alice Hathaway Lee of Massachusetts.

TR ENTERED POLITICS AS A YOUNG MAN…AND THEN DISAPPEARED

Roosevelt quit law school and joined the New York State Assembly as a representative from New York City—becoming the youngest to serve in that position. In 1884, both his mother and his wife died on the same day. Roosevelt left for the Dakota Territory for two years. There, he lived as a cowboy and cattle rancher. He returned to political life in 1886, ran for mayor of New York, and lost. He married Edith Kermit Carow. He served as a civil service commissioner, then as a New York City police commissioner, and then as *Assistant U.S. Navy Secretary* under President William McKinley. From this position, Roosevelt ordered the sinking of the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. Roosevelt soon left to organize a volunteer cavalry known as the Rough Riders, which he led in a bold charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba in 1898. A war hero, and nominated for the Medal of Honor, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1898.

AN ASSASSINATION LED TO TR’S BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

Roosevelt was a *progressive* thinker. His fellow Republicans were not; they plotted to isolate Roosevelt by persuading him to be vice president for William McKinley. However, an assassin killed President McKinley in 1901, making Roosevelt, at 42, the youngest man to assume the United States presidency.

TR SUPPORTED STRIKING WORKERS SEEKING BETTER CONDITIONS

President Roosevelt intervened when the United Mine Workers labor union went on strike for better working conditions in 1902.

TR WANTED TO BREAK UP “BAD TRUSTS” THAT SOUGHT MONOPOLIES

Roosevelt dedicated himself to prosecuting monopolies under the *Sherman Antitrust Act*. Among others, he broke up the giant railroad trust, Northern Securities Company, in 1903. He later announced the "Square Deal"—a domestic program that embraced *reform of the American workplace*, *government regulation of industry* and *consumer protection*. He wanted to help all classes of people. Roosevelt's charismatic personality and impassioned combination of pounding fists and emphatic rhetoric undoubtedly helped in pushing his agenda.

TR TRIED TO EXPAND AMERICAN HEGEMONY (SPHERE OF INFLUENCE)

Engaging his unofficial policy of “Speak softly and carry a big stick,” Roosevelt bulked up the U.S. Navy and created the "Great White Fleet," sending it on a world tour as a testament to U.S. military power.

TR WANTED A CANAL TO CONNECT THE OCEANS

Roosevelt helped expedite completion of the Panama Canal by providing *tacit approval* *of the Panama revolution* with funds and a naval blockade preventing Colombian troops from landing in Panama.

TR ISSUED HIS “COROLLARY” TO THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Venezuela (in South America) failed to repay a debt to a European bank in1904. Roosevelt then claimed the right to play “international policeman” when Latin American nations acted badly (failed to repay debts). Roosevelt wanted to avoid *any* European involvement in the United States’ “sphere of influence” (the Western Hemisphere).

TR WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1906

President Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his role in negotiating the end of the Russo-Japanese War. (Roosevelt believed that Japan would become too powerful in the Pacific Ocean if it defeated Russia.)

TR BROKE THROUGH COLOR LINES

Roosevelt was the first president to entertain an African-American, Booker T. Washington, as a guest at the White House.

TR EXPANDED THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In 1906, Roosevelt signed the National Monuments Act, protecting sites such as the Grand Canyon, and preserving countless wildlife sanctuaries, national forests and federal game reserves.

TR LEFT POLITICS…AND THEN CHANGED HIS MIND

Roosevelt told his Secretary of War, Taft, to run for president. Roosevelt then embarked on an African safari. Oops. After two years of leisure, Roosevelt decided to *make another run for the presidency*. However, Taft wanted to run again for the Republican Party. In 1912, Roosevelt formed the Progressive Party, also known as the "Bull Moose Party." During the campaign, an assassin shot Roosevelt; Roosevelt continued his speech for 90 minutes before seeing a doctor. Since Roosevelt “split” the Republican vote (between him and Taft), Woodrow Wilson won the 1912 election and, as a result, was the United States president during World War I.

Source: <http://www.biography.com/people/theodore-roosevelt-9463424>

In your composition book, explain the “Roosevelt contradiction.” In some ways, Roosevelt seemed to be two different people. He acted one way in some circumstances and another in other circumstances. Explain the “two sides” of Teddy Roosevelt. Write one page.